

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING, REFRIGERATING, AND AIR-CONDITIONING ENGINEERS AND NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Anthracite Chapter of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) as it celebrates National Engineers Week. The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers was originally formed in 1894 as American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers. With its international membership of over 56,000, ASHRAE works to make sustainable advancements in technology for heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration.

Since 1951, National Engineers Week has celebrated the countless contributions engineers have made to our country. National Engineers Week is formally recognized by a coalition of more than 70 engineering, education, and cultural societies, with over fifty corporations and government agencies dedicated to raising public awareness on the effect engineering has on daily life. National Engineers Week honors also the parents, teachers, and mentors who instill the importance of math, science, and technological literacy in students and motivate them to pursue careers in engineering.

Many of the major challenges of our time have been resolved by modern engineering. From designing efficient building systems to rebuilding towns devastated by natural disasters, the efforts of engineers contribute to our nation's well-being and quality of life. It is a great privilege to recognize these honorable men and women, who are committed to using their scientific skills and specialized knowledge to create and innovative ways to fulfill society's needs.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAVING AMERICA'S POLLINATORS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, our nation's food system is in a crisis right now, and it goes beyond the state of the farm economy. Between 2016 and 2017, it's estimated that the United States lost one-third of its honey bee colonies. Over the past decade, documented incidents of honey bee colony collapse disorder and other forms of excess bee mortality have been at a record high. Some beekeepers reported repeatedly losing 100 percent of their operations. While this may not sound like a crisis to some, these insects play a critical role in pollinating a number of our nation's crops.

Honey bees and native bees jointly provide U.S. agriculture an estimated \$18 to \$27 billion in pollination service annually. One of every three bites of food we eat is from a crop pollinated by bees. This dramatic decline

threatens these crops, and thousands of scientific studies have implicated neonicotinoid pesticides, or neonics, as key contributors to this trend.

That's why today I am proud to reintroduce the Saving America's Pollinators Act. This bill would protect the health of honey bees and other critical pollinators and suspend the use of bee-toxic neonics. It also requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to complete a thorough assessment and ensure that any use of these insecticides does not cause unreasonable and adverse effects on pollinators.

The health of our food system depends on the health of our pollinators, and the EPA has a responsibility to get to the bottom of this issue. I urge my colleagues to join me and pass this legislation so that we can save our pollinators. The future of our food depends on it.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CIVIL WAR DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to recognize and preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington located in the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland. The defenses of Washington, including forts, unarmed batteries and rifle trenches, created a ring of protection for the nation's capital during the Civil War. This bill would redesignate the 22 Civil War Defenses of Washington currently under National Park Service jurisdiction as a national historical park, and allow other sites associated with the Civil War Defenses of Washington that are owned by the District of Columbia or a unit of state governments to be affiliated with the national historic park through cooperative agreements. This bill would also require the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the storied history of the Civil War for both the North and the South, including the history of the Defenses of Washington and the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, being assembled, arrayed and conveyed for the benefit of the public for the knowledge, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

The Civil War Defenses of Washington were constructed at the beginning of the war, in 1861, as a ring of protection for the nation's capital and for President Abraham Lincoln. By the end of the war, these defenses included 68 forts, 93 unarmed batteries, 807 mounted cannons, 13 miles of rifle trenches, and 32 miles of military roads. The major test of the Civil War Defenses of Washington came with the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, when Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early, directed by General Robert E. Lee, sought to attack the nation's capital from the north, causing Union forces threatening to attack Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, to be withdrawn. General Early was delayed by Union Major General Lew Wallace at the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864, and was stopped at the northern edge of Washington at the Battle of Fort Stevens on July 11 and 12, 1864. The Shenandoah Valley Campaign ended when Union Lieutenant General

Philip Sheridan defeated General Early at the Battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia, on October 19, 1864.

Nearly all the individual forts in the Civil Defenses of Washington—on both sides of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers—were involved in stopping General Early's attack, and the Battle of Fort Stevens was the second and last attempt by the Confederate Army to attack Washington.

Taken together, these battles were pivotal to the outcome of the war and the freedom and democracy that the war represented for this country. It is therefore fitting that we recognize these sites by redesignating them as a national historic park.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE GREGORY D. BILL FOR RECEIVING THE 2018 PURPLE SPORT COAT AWARD

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Gregory D. Bill for receiving the Tertzag Tribute Dinner's 2018 Purple Sport Coat Award for his distinguished work as a judge. His commitment to justice and the Detroit community throughout his career with the 3rd Circuit Court of Michigan is worthy of recognition.

After receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and his J.D. from Western Michigan University's Cooley Law School, Judge Bill began his own practice with a specialization in aviation law. He has always had a passion for public service and served as a legislative aide for a member of the Michigan State Senate, where he honed his knowledge of the state's issues and policy procedures. Judge Bill served as a member of Michigan's 20th District Court before receiving an appointment to the Wayne County Circuit Court, a position he has held since 2000. Throughout his tenure, he has served in a variety of capacities and currently serves in the criminal division.

Judge Bill has been an outstanding public servant throughout his decades of work with the judiciary and is widely recognized and respected for his legal expertise. His colleagues have previously recognized him for his work, including being awarded the Michigan Special Legislative Tribute for Outstanding Service to the People of Michigan. The Purple Sport Coat award is granted in honor of the late Judge Kaye Tertzag who was known for his integrity and strict interpretation of the law. Judge Bill lives up to the legacy of public respect and judicial integrity that Judge Tertzag is remembered for and is truly deserving of this award. He has provided outstanding service to our state throughout his career as a judge, and I look forward to his continued work in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Judge Gregory Bill for being named the recipient of the 2018 Purple Sport Coat Award for his distinguished work as a judge. Judge Bill has been an outstanding public servant during his legal career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position on roll call votes cast on February 13, 2018.

On Roll Call Vote Number 70, on the Lexington VA Health Care System, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "Yea."

On Roll Call Vote Number 71, to extend the Generalized System of Preferences and to make technical changes to the competitive need limitations provision of the program, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "Yea."

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF WILLIAM TOMKA**HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor World War II Veteran, William John Tomka, with whom I had the recent pleasure of joining to celebrate his 100th birthday on January 27, 2018.

Born in Dover, New Jersey to immigrant parents, William spent his formative years in New Jersey, developing a love of music. This resulted in him becoming a music teacher until he was drafted into the United States Army on July 11, 1941. He left a successful teaching job in New Jersey to defend our great nation. After completing his radio operations training at Fort Dix and Fort Bragg, he was deployed to Iceland as part of the 50th Signal Battalion, in which he served as a Technical Sergeant, leading a group of 8 men who were also trained radio operators. His team was responsible for code, receiving and transmitting from the field, as well as in command cars. This group was part of the first American Army personnel to be sent into the European Theatre of Operations. After 22 months in Iceland, he was sent to England to be a part of the invasion force of France on D-Day. He was dropped on Utah Beach on June 6, 1944 and bravely fought through the campaign of Europe, including the American bombardment of the German forces at Saint-Lô. He and his fellow soldiers proceeded to serve at the Battle of the Bulge.

When accounting his most memorable times in the Army, Mr. Tomka will tell you about his time in Europe after D-day. He told me about his time in France where he witnessed American fighter pilots bomb the German forces and of his time served in joint force with the Russians at the river of Elbe. Mr. Tomka was discharged after three and a half years of foreign duty on June 22, 1945.

After his years of service, Mr. Tomka went back to his passion of teaching music. He started an instrumental music program in the Fledgefield school system of New Jersey. During his years of music education, Mr. Tomka obtained his master's degree from NYU in Supervision and Administration, and while he was at NYU, he played violin in the orchestra. Even at 100, his talents are still impressive. At his recent birthday celebration, Mr. Tomka

expertly played the clarinet, violin, piano, and sang for his family and friends.

I salute William John Tomka on his years of faithful service to our country and the public-school system. He has exemplified qualities of a true American hero, and I, on behalf of a grateful nation, admire his service and sacrifice.

CONGRATULATING DOMONIQUE
MALCOLM ON BEING NAMED A
DISTINGUISHED FINALIST BY
THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF
COMMUNITY AWARDS**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Domonique Malcolm for being named a Distinguished Finalist in New York State by the 2018 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state.

Ms. Malcolm is being recognized for co-founding a nonprofit that led several mission trips to help an impoverished community in Jamaica, and for recently coordinating a trip that mobilized 29 volunteers to build two new houses and offer medical and dental support at a local clinic. Over the past four years, Ms. Malcolm has also helped provide the community with support, including groceries and computers for students.

Created in 1995, the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards recognizes the critical importance and high value of contributions made by youth volunteers, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 23 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 120,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national levels.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I heartily applaud Ms. Malcolm for her commitment and dedication to serving others, and thank her for the positive impact she has made on many lives. Young volunteers like Ms. Malcolm are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. EUNICE
L. MIXON**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and service of a distinguished educator, political activist, and dear friend to my wife, Vivian and me, Mrs. Eunice L. Mixon. She was honored as the 2018 Distinguished Older Georgian, a title given by the Georgia Council on Aging to honor a Georgian, of at least 80 years of age, who is a role model for positive aging and has made significant contribution to society through occupational or volunteer efforts. An award reception was held for Eunice at the

Georgia State Capitol at 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 8, 2018 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Eunice L. Mixon was born in Tifton, Georgia on April 11, 1931 to the union of the late Robert and Carrie Lastinger. A product of the Tift County School System, she went on to attend classes at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and earn both Master's and Specialist Degrees in Science Education from the University of Georgia.

Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Through every stage of her life, Eunice has always given of herself to others. She served as an educator for 30 years within the Tift County School System and at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College before redirecting her passion to politics. Her first official post in politics came in 1974 when she became the Tift County campaign chair for former Governor George Busbee. She also served as a delegate to the 1988 and 1992 National Democratic Conventions, and as a member of the Georgia Democratic Executive Committee. Over the years, she has helped campaign and fundraise for several political figures including former Georgia Lieutenant Governors Zell Miller, and Pierre Howard, former Georgia Governors Roy Barnes, Joe Frank Harris, and Sonny Perdue, former Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Tommy Irvin, former Georgia Secretary of State Max Cleland, U.S. Representative Charles Hatcher, former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn, former U.S. Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton as well as yours truly.

Eunice's distinguished civil service has been mirrored by her extensive involvement in her community. In conjunction with her professional accomplishments in politics, she served on several boards, including the Georgia Student Finance Commission, Vocational Education Task Force, Advisory Council on Consolidation of Education Programs, Georgia Civil War Commission, Joint Board Liaison Committee, and the Georgia State Bar Disciplinary Board. She has served as the doorkeeper to the Georgia State Senate, and has served on the State Bar of Georgia's Investigative Panel, the Tifton/Tift County Library Board, the Coastal Plain Regional Library Board, the Georgia Student Finance Commission Board, the Heritage Trust Commission Board, the Agrirama Foundation and the State Election Board.

Eunice received several awards for her extensive work in politics. These include induction into the Tift County Chamber of Commerce's Wall of Fame in 2014; the Liberty Bell Award by the Tifton Judicial Circuit Bar Association in 2016; a spot on the 40 Most Influential South Georgians; and in 2010, the State Bar of Georgia honored Eunice with an award in her name.

Eunice has accomplished many things in her life but none of these would have been possible without the enduring support of her late husband, Albert and their sons, Johnny and Jimmy.

On a personal note, I have been blessed to know Eunice for many years and I can say without reservation that she is one of the most passionate and warmhearted individuals I have ever met. I am proud to consider Eunice and the Mixon family friends of longstanding.